

Night Navigation 2010

On September 18, 20 or so of us gathered in spacious shelter, with a small fire to keep us warm, to learn how to avoid getting lost in a big open body of water, the fog, or the dark. Our skills varied from the memory recall of 8th grade geography to experts who enjoy spending free moments studying maps and could lead us not-so-experts out of the darkness. Dana and Rhett led us through a wonderful interactive morning of looking at maps and plotting different routes around Lake Superior and the lake at hand for the weekend, Mille Lacs. Fun prizes were given out for those “Sharpies” who answered questions correctly, as well as glow sticks to see where others were. We learned a lot that morning on how to chart a course to avoid going in circles for hours.

We broke for lunch and headed out into the sunny, cold and windy day. It was decided during lunch, due to the weather, that we would head out for a long afternoon paddle and we would skip the nighttime paddle for a safer option of testing our night navigation skills on a walking course. Jeff created a course that involved a cryptic map, compass bearings, and converting paces to feet and miles. All participants returned safely to base.

We ended the day with a lovely campfire and socializing. We all gained some new friends and new skills over the course of the day!